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that flowed through, could be stored there and let out for the use of the cultivators, whenever there was scarcity of water.

He prayed that his representations might receive the early attention of the Government.

*Dewan's reply.*—The Chief Engineer reported that the construction of the Talliar Left Bank Channel would be very expensive and that, even if constructed, much of land could not be brought under irrigation. He proposed, as an alternative measure, the improvement of the existing four channels, which was likely to be far less expensive. He has been thereupon asked to investigate the alternative scheme and report the result. This report is awaited.

98. Roads in the Planting districts.

*Mr. H. C. Westaway* (Member, the Central Travancore and the Mundakayam Planters' Associations) being absent at the time, Mr. G. A. Baker (Member, Nominated) read his representation. The Member first conveyed the thanks of the Association to the Government for improving the condition of the Kottayam—Kumili Road since he sent up his memorandum. The same road required further improvements from the 33rd to the 40th mile and particularly from the 52nd mile to Kumili. He also drew attention to an old trace between Peermade and Devicolam which did not seem to have been recorded on any Government plan. The cutting of the road would open out an immense tract of country for cultivation and facilitate the export of a large quantity of valuable timber which was at present unavailable for want of a suitable out-let. It would also become the main road for the transport of rubber and for the supply of food stuffs to the Mundakayam estates. Lastly, all the tea from Peermade would go over that road as well as the food supplies for that districts The Member therefore requested that the Government might be pleased to give their earnest consideration to the road.

*Dewan's reply.*—Noted.

## VI.—Public Health.

### (1) Town Improvement Committees.

99. The re-organisation of the older T. I. C's and the enlargement of their powers with regard to finance.

*Mr. C. Raman Tampi, B. A. & B. L.* (Member, T. I. C., Quilon) said that the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation was amended by Regulation V of 1085 as a result of the representation of the T. I. C. delegates in the Assembly. The proportion of the non-official members to the official members and the Committee's powers over finance were not interfered with by the amending Regulation. On the other hand, some of the powers exercised by the Committees in regard to sanitation and appointments, dismissals &c., of some of the servants of the Committees were withdrawn and conferred upon the Presidents and Vice-Presidents. The non-official members were of opinion that a further expansion of the financial powers of the Committees was possible. The survey of the present position of the educated classes in Travancore made by Mr. K. Parameswaren Pillai in advocating reform in the Legislative Council might have convinced the Government

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that the people of Travancore were fit to be given larger powers of self-government.

The present state of the work done by the Town Improvement Committees needed improvement in very many directions. The executive officers who presided over the Committees found very little time or convenience to bestow any serious attention to the work of the Committees. The Member thought it advisable, in the interests of the Government, to relieve them of the work by the appointment of non-official Presidents. He then referred to the working of the Town Councils of the Cochin State and said that they were efficiently managed by the non-official Presidents and the non-official majorities. In the Travancore State also, the Committees could be expected to work efficiently with non-official Presidents and a non-official majority. It would not be difficult, in the case of the older towns of Nagercoil, Quilon, Alleppey and Kottayam, to find suitable men, who had the leisure and business capacity, for the Presidentship. The Member therefore proposed the following reforms in those older Town Improvement Committees and requested that the same might receive the early consideration of the Government :—

(1) The total number of members should be raised to 13, consisting of four official members and nine non-official members. Of the latter, six should be elected by the people and three nominated by the Government.

(2) The President should be a non-official, nominated by the Government for the time being, and the Vice-President also should be a non-official but elected by the non-official members from among themselves.

(3) The Committees should have absolute freedom in the matter of spending their receipts. The only control that the Government should reserve to themselves ought to be in checking the accounts. The accounts of the Town Improvement Committees might be made subject to inspection by an Audit officer, deputed by the Government for the purpose, twice a year.

(4) The Committees should be given powers to appoint, dismiss, suspend or fine any servant under them. In the case of dismissals and suspensions, the party punished should have the right of appeal to the Government.

(5) The Government should give the assurance that the grant now allotted to each Committee would be continued for at least five years from the date of sanctioning the proposed reforms.

(6) The appellation "Town Improvement Committees" should be changed into "Municipalities" or "Municipal Councils."

(7) The members should be given the right of interpellating the President upon questions relating to the

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sanitation of the town and other matters over which the Committees have control.

*Dewan's reply.*—The suggestions of the Member are noted for consideration.

**100. Suggestion regarding the election of the non-official Members of Town Improvement Committees.**

*Mr. L. M. Raja Raja Varma* (Member, T. I. C., Changanacherry) said that the non-official seats in the Town Improvement Committees were filled up at their formation by the local Tahsildars and afterwards by the Committees. In practice, it resulted in the wealthy, yet uneducated, men being returned as non-official members. They did not understand nor care to understand the nature of their work. The Member therefore requested, particularly with regard to the Committee at Changanacherry, that it should be ruled that, in the case of a vacancy among the non-official members, the Committee should invite not less than five educated men from each *kara* of the town and fill up the vacancy according to their votes.

Replying to the query of the Dewan, the Member said that, if the electoral system was introduced, it would meet the case.

*Dewan's reply.*—Noted.

**101. The need for a supply of wholesome water for the town of Nagercoil.**

*Mr. A. M. Kumara Pillai, B. A. & B. L.* (Member, T. I. C., Nagercoil) said that the cry of the town of Nagercoil, unlike other places, was not for a costly building or road, but for simple water. The question was not a new one, but was being pressed on the attention of the Government now for several years. Both Mr. Ratnaswamy Iyer, while in charge of the Southern Division, and Mr. Jopp, the late Chief Engineer, had addressed the Government on the subject. The people were quiet for some time, feeding on the pious hope that, with the completion of the Petchipara Works, their difficulties would be reduced ; but it was not to be, for, during the hot season—when water was required most—not a drop of water would be let out of the Reservoir. Most of the tanks in the town were being used both for irrigation and for communal purposes. The Irrigation officers took care to drain away the tanks before the Reservoir was closed. In the whole town, there were only about 70 wells—public and private put together. About 95 per cent of the houses had no wells. Of the 70 wells, the water in 40 was too bad to be used. Even the remaining 30 wells were undergoing deterioration, for, with the introduction of the Petchipara water, wet cultivation was rapidly extending into the heart of the town and the water in the wells was getting contaminated by percolation. In fact, the town itself was becoming more insanitary by the extending wet cultivation.

*Dewan.*—The proper thing would be for the Town Improvement Committee to prohibit such cultivation.

*Member.*—The Committee have no power under the Regulation to prevent cultivation.

*Dewan.*—It is for the Committee to ask for the power. The whole town of Nagercoil is within the commanded area and it is, I know, getting water-logged. As wet cultivation extends and as the houses are on a lower level, I fear that the

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